

Submission
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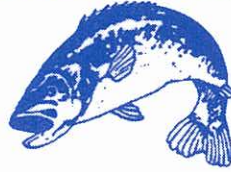
INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING

Organisation: Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative Limited
Name: Mr W Pearce
Position: Manager
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Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative Limited

ABN 69 696 950 450

Fresh Local Seafoods



ALL CORRESPONDENCE

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WHOLESALE DEPOTS

NEWCASTLE

TEL: (02) 4965 4235

NELSON BAY

TEL: (02) 4981 4052

TEA GARDENS

TEL: (02) 4997 0606

SWANSEA

TEL: (02) 4971 4762

BUNGWAHL

TEL: (02) 4997 6117

TACOMA

TEL: (02) 4353 2344

RETAIL SHOPS

NEWCASTLE

TEL: (02) 4965 4221

SWANSEA

TEL: (02) 4971 4762

TACOMA

TEL: (02) 4353 2344

GOROKAN

TEL: (02) 4392 1603

HEAD OFFICE

97 HANNELL ST
WICKHAM 2293

TEL: (02) 4965 4221

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4 March 2010

The Director
Select Committee on Recreational Fishing
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Inquiry into Recreational Fishing

I am making this submission on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative Limited which has been operating in this region since 1945. There are 130 members who are active commercial fishers supplying about \$10 million of seafood annually for the benefit of the general public many of whom are unable for different reasons or do not have the time to catch their own seafood on a regular basis. These people should not be restricted from eating the fresh local fish which could happen if further area closures are imposed on the commercial industry. Confirmation that the local people want to eat fresh seafood can be provided by the increase in sales at the Co-operative's Newcastle shop from \$1.91 million in 1998 to \$6.44 million in 2009.

Fishing is a pastime that can be enjoyed by the general public given the right weather conditions and naturally the spare time with no other commitments (work, family, health, etc) but surely this does not mean that the recreational anglers must have exclusive use of a particular waterway to the detriment of the commercial fishers who operate a business in that area for the supply of seafood to benefit the local residents and the economy in general.

Tourism is a major industry in NSW but it should be remembered that all tourists do not fish but most enjoy eating seafood, supplied by the commercial fishers, at the restaurants or other shops in the town.

Over the past ten years there have been many restrictions imposed on the commercial fishing industry and these have substantially reduced the seafood catches to a point where any further area closures in certain regions could trigger the collapse of the Co-operative to the detriment of the local commercial fishers and the community in general. As a substantial volume of the daily catch is transported for sale at Sydney Fish Market the downturn effect would also be felt by the majority of people in the state capital.

The Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative Limited covers the 200km coastline between Tuggerah in the south and Seal Rocks in the north and the government buyout of fishing businesses has reduced the number of members from 206 to 130 since the implementation of the Lake Macquarie Recreational Fishing Haven in 2002 and the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park in 2005. There surely can be no justification for further restrictions or area closures to give exclusive use of waterways to the recreational anglers at the expense of the commercial fishers who work to provide the fresh NSW seafood for the general public.

It is our belief that there are not enough active licensed commercial fishers in NSW at this time to supply the seafood requirements of the residents of this state and that is the main reason for the large volume of imported product being sold.

I would therefore request that you take into consideration the whole issue which will have an effect on the total population of NSW and not make any recommendations that will benefit just a minor section.



W Pearce
Manager
Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative Limited